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# ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR RURAL ROADS REHABILITATION (ES3R)

CONTRACT NO: EDH-I-00-08-00023

## MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2015

10 March 2014

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The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government. This report was prepared for the U.S. Agency for International Development. It was prepared by CDM International, Engineering Services Rural Roads Rehabilitation (ES3R)

## Acronyms

A & E	Architect and Engineer
BoQ	Bills of Quantity
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer Representative
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
ES	Environmental Specialist
ESMMP	Environmental & Social Mitigation & Monitoring Plan
ES3R	Engineering Services for Rural Roads Rehabilitation
ETL	Engineering Team Leader
FED	Food and Enterprise Development
FTF	Feed the Future
FTL	Field Team Leader
F2M	Farm to Market
F2MRR	Farm to Market Road Rehabilitation
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOL	Government of Liberia
LESSP	Liberia Energy Sector Support Project
LMWP	Liberia Municipal Water Project
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MPEA	Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs
MPW	Ministry of Public Works
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PIRS	Performance Indicator Results Sheet
RE	Resident Engineer
SI	Site Inspector
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

# **ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR RURAL ROADS REHABILITATION (ES3R)**

## **MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT NOVEMBER 2014**

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# 1. SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## 1.1 Introduction

The U. S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) 'Engineering Services for Rural Roads Rehabilitation (ES3R)' was awarded to Camp Dresser McKee International (CDM) under the following USAID contract number: EDH-I-00-08-00023 and task order AID-669-TO-13-00002 which records the period of performance as 8 October 2013 to 20 October 2015.

Liberia's Farm to Market Rural Roads (F2MRR) activity is allied to the objectives of the Feed the Future (FTF) initiative, which is a U.S. government initiative, which aims to address the root causes of global hunger by sustainably increasing agricultural productivity. F2MRR will provide infrastructure investment in the rehabilitation of rural farm-to-market roads to support the following:

- USAID /Liberia FTF program Food and Enterprise Development (FED),
- Capacity development for routine maintenance systems within the Government of Liberia (GOL),
- Capacity development of Ministry of Public Works (MPW) rural roads engineers and local A & E firms,
- Development of alternative low volume road pavement pilot projects, standards and design specifications.

## **1.2 Objectives**

Within F2MRR, ES3R will be an implementing mechanism which will undertake the following objectives:

### **Objective 1:**

Provide construction oversight for three (3) local contracts for the rehabilitation of a total of 83.5 kilometers farm-to-market roads in Bong, Lofa, and Nimba counties from 2013 to 2015.

### **Objective 2:**

Produce engineering designs and construction documents for the 450 kilometers farm-to-market roads in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, and Grand Bassa counties to be rehabilitated in 2015 to 2018.

### **Objective 3:**

Training and pre-qualification of five (5) local architect-engineer firms capable of providing oversight for road rehabilitation activities by 2015.

This monthly progress report presented in respect of the project covers the progress of the works for the period from 1 February 2015 to 28 February 2015. In addition, the report details the status and approach to project challenges and presents an outline schedule for the forthcoming month.

## 2. FEBRUARY 2015 OVERVIEW

### Preamble

During this reporting period, ES3R staff was engaged in the culverts designs and documentation of the year's activities and progress. There was also significant activity in data collecting to complete Health Assessment 2 and its clearance by CDM Management which will permit to return ES3R to normal operations.

### 2.1 February 2015 Highlights Summary

The table included hereafter provides a summary of the Project highlights:

Date	Description	Comment
Feb 9, 2015	Weekly Project Review Meeting	USAID COR
Feb 10, 2015	Health Assessment 2 submitted	To CDM Management
Feb 12, 2015	Health Assessment 2 clearance	To CDM Management
Feb 12, 2015	Weekly Project Review Meeting	USAID COR
Feb 12, 2015	Submittal of Draft Monthly Progress Report for the month of January 2015	To USAID/Liberia
Feb 13, 2015	Participation of the Y2 Work Plan for USAID FED	USAID FED Project COP
Feb 17, 2015	Travel request approval for TRG Capacity Building Expert	From USAID/Liberia
Feb 20, 2015	Draft Year 2 Work Plan submitted	To USAID/Liberia
Feb 27, 2015	Presentation of Year 2 Work Plan	To USAID/Liberia

## **2.2 Details of Highlights**

### **2.2.1 Project Deliverables and Documentation**

#### **Monthly Progress Report**

Monthly Progress Report for January 2015 was submitted on schedule to USAID In 12 February 2015.

#### **Monthly Report for January 2015**

The main contents of the report are below summarized:

- Highlights Summary
- Details of Highlights
- Health Assessment 2
- Progress Meetings with USAID
- Project Deliverables and Documentation
- Field Visits to Counties Sites
- Design of Bridgeworks
- Revised Work Plan
- Objective 1 – Construction Oversight
- Objective 2 – Design and Contract Documents
- Objective 3 – Training and Capacity Building
- Performance Management Plan – PIRS

#### **Letters / E mails from USAID/Liberia**

Email addressed to CDM COP, was received from USAID/Liberia on 6 February 2015. The contents of this are summarized as follows:

- Information that that USAID had initiated preliminary discussions with the construction contractors relative to potential expansion of



the contract contracts to include the recently designed 75 km of roads.

- Informing also that that sometime in following week the designs (75-km package delivered on 25 October 2015) would be forwarded to the contractors. This will be followed by a site walk-through and subsequent submission of proposals by the contractors. Once the timelines for these are finalized I have you informed.
- USAID COR request CDM to get submitted the supplementary and final design for the box culverts and electronic version of the specifications by mid next week.
  
- Suggestion from USAID COR on the next USAID-ES3R weekly meeting be held at CDM project office by 11:00 am on Monday Feb. 9, 2015.

A second email addressed to CDM COP, was received from USAID/Liberia on 10 February 2015, this is summarized as follows:

- Invitation to participate in a 1/2 day training (planned for February 18) for your staff proposed to handle data reporting in PIDS.
- A second email addressed to CDM COP, was received from USAID/Liberia on 10 February 2015, this is summarized as follows:

A third email addressed to CDM COP, was received from USAID/Liberia on 12 February 2015, this is summarized as follows:

- USAID's reaction to the news on clearance by CDM Management of Health Assessment 2 and appreciation by COR to the entire ES3R team of "Civil-Public Health Engineers" for the efforts in making this happen.

In a fourth email, from USAID COR to CDM COP, dated 24 February 2015, summary is as below:

- USAID COR informs scheduled dates for the site visit with construction contractor for extension of present contracts of 84 kilometer.
- USAID expects CDM explains contractor documents –technical drawings included of the 75-km kilometer package delivered last 25 October 2014, for quotations the Bill of Quantities.

### 3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES PROGRESS

#### 3.1 Objective 1 – Construction Oversight

##### **General:**

Field activities have been resumed soon afterwards clearance from CDM Smith on Health Assessment #2 given on 12 February 2015.

Activities during this period focused on construction oversight and reorganization of the topo survey works.

All three field teams are engaged with the development of Quality Control forms. When the teams are able to return to field based activities the forms will be introduced to each Contractor and thereafter used the Contractor's Quality Control Officer.

<b>ES3R Status of Works Contracts</b>			
<b>Description</b>	<b>Bong</b>	<b>Lofa</b>	<b>Nimba</b>
Contract Award	22 Jan 2014	27 Jan 2014	22 Jan 2014
Contract Period, days	730	730	730
Time Elapsed (to end January 2015), %	50	37	50
Overall Assessed Completion, % (approx.)	50.4	55	66

Total Contract Value, USD	1,895,141.86	590,269	843,228.25
Payments to end January 2015, USD	508,376.56	225,508	407,204

### **3.2 Objective 2 – Design and Contract Documents**

#### **General:**

Lofa field team is engaged with a review of the survey forms developed during field based activities prior to deployment to Monrovia in August 2014.

The Lofa team is also preparing a detailed road survey guide. Nimba team is continuing with the detailed design of 5 box culverts within the Nimba, Zuaplay cluster.

### **3.3 Objective 3 – Training and Mentoring**

The mentoring of contractors was not applicable during the first half of the month, in which QAC oversight was not carried out keeping in view that Health Assessment No. 2 clearance was given by CDM Management on 12 February 2015.

#### **ES3R Team members**

##### **Resident Engineers**

- Refinement of survey templates
- Detailed hydraulic design of multi-cell box culverts
- Detailed structural design of multi-cell box culverts
- Construction supervision administration (Quality control and progress meetings)

Site Inspectors:

- Plotting of levels for cross sections
- Design of interventions for water crossings
- Developing strip maps

## 4. PROJECT CHALLENGES

The following items have been encountered recently which are continuing and pose challenges to the ES3R team and Project:

Challenge / Issue	Mitigation / Resolution
In the interests of health and safety, the field teams were moved to the project office in Monrovia to commence design duties.	The staff of the three field teams were very responsive and were fully engaged in the design of roads working from the Monrovia office and completed 75 kilometers.
MPW Technical Specifications, Method of Measurement and Detail Drawings which are required to be used in the contract documentation are neither finalized nor yet field tested.	ES3R have identified that from initial assessment, the existing MPW documents will require significant refinement for inclusion in the contract documents. Further work to be undertaken by ES3R following feedback from key stakeholders.
Bridge engineer requirement.	Proposal for structural engineering support is required. A realistic estimate of waterways which require bridge structures is required.
Additional 75 kilometers for construction oversight as communicated in meeting with USAID CO.	CMD to get the USAID support to strengthen the present 3 field teams with an additional team, a vehicle included, so as to avoid distraction of the remaining 375 km of road design.
Ebola crisis situation was the cause of increased stress of team members which results in reduced motivation and decreased productivity in field work.	Undergoing Health Assessment will confirm whether it is safe for the CMD staff to return to the field. Also de company's Health and Safety Plan is being en-forced so as to strengthen the field staff's morale and spirits leave in the past this crisis.

## 5. OUTLINE SCHEDULE

### 5.1 Outline Schedule for March 2015

#### **Preamble**

Formal approval to resume normal field based activities was given by on 12 February.

The Year 2 Work Plan which has been submitted in draft and presented to USAID in a meeting in this month.

The strategy in this work plan is to continue the construction oversight of the ongoing 84 km estimated to substantially complete before the onset of rains. This activity will continue up to end February 2016 for the 75 kilometers being added to actual construction contracts and will be.

In same strategy, it envisaged to engage all the topo survey teams and complete the remaining design of 375 kilometers, all the field works before the rainy season, and then carry out design work in Monrovia.

#### **Objective 1 – Construction Oversight**

The QA Contractor had been absent from all sites since August 2014. Within that period of it there has been a significant in progress on all three Contracts. Rains had abated in December and this permitted all contractors to reengage with earthworks and cross drainage structures without interference from adverse weather. Executed works are now being inspected as far as possible to keep the quality

in the absence of QA Contractor in order to assess compliance. Works judged to be substandard; the Contractors will be informed and advised to rectify deficiencies.

Another activity anticipated in next month will be site visits with all three Contractors in their respective counties to the location of road links included in the 75km i.e. 35km Bong County, 15 km Lofa County and 20kmj in Nimba County. It is confirmed that USAID will vary current Contracts to include additional lengths as indicated above.

Further to the site visits, workshops are anticipated with Contractors introducing project managers to the revised set of standard drawings, revised Bill of Quantities and amended specifications.

## **Objective 2 – Design and Contract Documents**

Nimba team will continue with the detailed design of 5 Box culverts for the Zuaplay cluster.

Lofa Team will continue with the refinement of the survey templates and the survey design guide.

Lofa Team in collaboration with the Engineering team Leader will prepare preliminary design for the 14m span bridge for the Zuaplay Nimba Cluster.

Bong Team will continue with the development of QC templates which when completed, checked and approved will be included in future Contract documentation.

No substantial work was done on this element during second half of February

### **Objective 3 – Training and Mentoring**

TRG has re-engaged with the 5 selected A & E firms identified for capacity Development.

TRG has assessed current status of the firms and requested that resumes for all potential trainees be sent to ES3R Project Office for review. After review, it will be determined the field for the on-job training, suitable for them as per background and capacity. The planned fields are construction supervision, road, culverts and bridge design, environmental mitigation measures.

TRG will be in Liberia and conduct two Workshops in second and third week of March.

Workshop number one will be on project orientation and skills definitions; mentoring, skill transfer and work planning activities; communication skills and team building. This workshop is intended for field Engineers who in the following stage of the capacity building plan, will be considered for the on-job training.

The second workshop will be addressed to Managers/Directors will be on Leading and management; making decisions and building teams; giving feedback and resolving conflict; developing self, others and your organization.